

NOTICE OF DECISION UNDER REGULATION 32 FILM POSTERS

DVD SLICK

TO: The Film and Video Labelling Body Inc.
PO Box 2627
AUCKLAND

Pursuant to regulation 32 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Regulations 1994 the film poster entitled:

Special Assignment #23: Up The Skirt 3

is **Not Approved.**

The DVD slick is not approved because it encourages sexual harassment and degrades and dehumanises women.

The text on the slick talks about using a camera to "peek" up women's skirts to capture images of their upper thighs and crotches. At no point on the slick is there any mention of women consenting to being filmed. One paragraph on the back cover is quite overt about surreptitious filming, describing the cameraman following women on the street and in other public places. The use of a hidden camera to surreptitiously film women in a manner that they would be likely to find offensive or threatening is a form of sexual harassment. The actions of the cameraman and the use of the slick to advertise the resulting material for the sexual titillation of male viewers degrades and dehumanises women.

The Classification Office has weighed the competing considerations of the issues raised above and the right to freedom of expression set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The DVD slick's potential for injury to the public good makes it likely that, if the slick were to be submitted under s13(1) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, it would be classified as objectionable. The likely injury to the public good caused by the availability of this advertising material is its potential to encourage the sexual harassment of women by giving male viewers the impression that women are available and accessible objects for similar acts of covert voyeurism. The DVD slick is therefore not approved. Such a limitation on the right to freedom of expression is justified in order to prevent likely injury to the public good.

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Date: 14 November 2003

For the Classification Office (signed):

OFLC No: 301647